



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

August 18, 2025 Edition

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing. People will forget what you said, they may even forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel — and how your actions aligned with your words. That is what earns trust.” - Albert Schweitzer

Renew & Thrive

Year-round membership renewal means councils need fresh approaches to keep units strong and members engaged.

We’ve gathered proven strategies from councils of all sizes—ideas that work, inspire, and spark innovation. Whether you’re a Council leader, Commissioner, or Renewal Champion, there’s something here to help you boost renewals and keep Scouting thriving in your community.

Not every method will fit every council or district, but adapting, improving, and staying proactive is the key to long-term success. Let’s work together to make this renewal season the strongest yet!

Check out the [Renew and Thrive](#) page for all the details.

New Tool for Den Leaders Launched!

To help make Den meetings fun, simple and easy, the Cub Scouting Committee has just launched Den Meeting Card Decks – a unique, rank-specific resource for Den Leaders. Each deck contains QR-code-enabled, step-by-step instructions for all required Adventures, plus a few Electives. Bonus cards feature fun games to energize any meeting.

Please encourage Packs to equip their Den Leaders with these helpful packs. The card decks have just gone on sale at a number of Scout Shops and can be ordered online using this [link](#).

New Guide for Organizing Successful Commissioner Events

When we create meaningful and memorable events just for commissioners, we empower them to communicate more effectively, support units more confidently, and strengthen the entire Scouting program. [This new guide](#) is your roadmap to planning impactful commissioner events that truly make a difference.

Videos Available of Recent Membership Kickoffs

You can watch the recent national fall membership kick off webinar for Cub Scouts [here](#) and for Scouts BSA [here](#). These are great assets to get to unit leaders as they plan for membership growth.

Help Unit Leaders Harness Post-Activity Energy

As Scouts return from their summer adventures, they're full of energy, stories, and a renewed passion for the program. That post-event excitement is powerful—and it's the perfect time to help unit leaders channel it into growth and momentum for the fall. Read [here](#) how we can make sure that enthusiasm doesn't fade with the tan lines.

Scouting is the Door

A [recent study](#) found the following -

What we see in the data and from the stories parents send us is both simple and poignant: Kids being raised on screens long for real freedom. It's like they're homesick for a world they've never known.

Granting them more freedom may feel uncomfortable at first. But if parents want their kids to put down their phones, they need to open the front door. Nearly three-quarters of the children in our survey agreed with the statement "I would spend less time online if there were more friends in my neighborhood to play with in person."

Scouting is that door. What's on the other side is community, confidence, and character. As unit leaders prepare for fall recruitment, they should feel confident knowing this truth: what they offer is exactly what is wanted and needed.

The Recruiter Strip is a Great Incentive

The Recruiter Strip might just be the most important patch a Scout can earn.

There's just one simple requirement for a youth to earn the Recruiter Strip — recruit a friend who joins Scouting. That's it. One friend. One invitation. One big impact.

Whether a Scout is in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scouts, if they help someone join the adventure, they earn the red, white, and blue Recruiter Strip. Read more [here](#).

Scoutly is Live

Scoutly is a powerful new AI assistant designed to provide instant, reliable support to the entire Scouting community. Launch at the beginning of August, Scoutly is more than a search tool — it's an interactive chatbot trained on an extensive, contained knowledge base of official Scouting America resources. This ensures a safe, child-friendly experience without relying on external internet searches.

Scoutly is now available 24/7 on Scouting.org and BeAScout.org, providing answers to a variety of Scouting questions. You can interact with Scoutly by selecting the floating Scoutly icon on the lower right corner of each of these websites.

Scoutly's primary mission is to simplify the journey for new families. By providing a conversational and streamlined registration process, the assistant helps parents find a local Scout unit and complete the registration process. Read more [here](#).

For any questions or concerns about Scoutly, please use the feedback link in the Scoutly chat box.

Get Access to News As It Breaks

Follow the [Commissioners of Scout America's Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) and help spread the word about Scouting by liking and sharing posts.

Your National Commissioner Service Team Serves You

The National Commissioner Service Team (NCST) exists to serve commissioners. Learn who are the members of the 2025-26 team are and what they do [here](#).

Ask A Commissioner

Q. How can a commissioner support units that are experiencing the sudden death of a Cubmaster or Scoutmaster?

A. "The sudden death of a beloved Scouter sends shock waves through the entire Scouting family," writes Rev. David Weyrick, Pastor and Scouting Relationships Advocate. "It is a time marked by disbelief, sorrow, and aching loss. In these early moments, the Unit Commissioner plays a sacred role, not as a fixer, but as a faithful presence. A simple phone call to someone in the unit with whom they share trust can become a lifeline, reminding the grieving that they are not alone.

"This is not the time for checklists or logistics. It is a time to listen, to offer grace, and to show up. The Commissioner's presence, at calling hours, memorial gatherings, or unit remembrances, quietly communicates, 'We grieve with you.' Sometimes that presence is a handshake, sometimes a tearful hug, always a symbol of shared sorrow and steady care. In the ministry of Scouting, presence is one of our greatest acts of service."

The Scout unit can support the family by offering condolences and assistance. Meal trains could be organized. Assistance with memorial arrangements or just helping with small tasks are usually appreciated. Above all, respect the family's wishes regarding privacy and involvement from the Scouting community. Grief will continue, but in time the unit may consider holding a remembrance ceremony, service project, or other event to honor the leader's legacy.

A practical concern is the unit's leadership and program continuity. Many units will have an assistant who can step in - at least temporarily. If no clear successor is identified, the commissioner and district professional can help locate interim support and guide the unit through the selection process. Despite the circumstances, Scout families have been known to lift each other up and emerge with a stronger sense of community and purpose.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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